

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1:

1. (Twice amended) A method for denaturing or separating double-stranded nucleic acid molecules, said method comprising
 - i) contacting one or more double-stranded nucleic acid molecules with a denaturant selected from the group consisting of
 - a) one or more amino acid denaturants,
 - b) imidazole, and
 - c) one or more amino acid denaturants plus imidazole,
 - thereby forming one or more single-stranded nucleic acid molecules; and
 - ii) combining said one or more single-stranded nucleic acid molecules with one or more nucleic acid molecules wherein said one or more nucleic acid molecules are capable of hybridizing to said single-stranded nucleic acid molecules.